

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The listing of Claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

What is Claimed:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication application executable on a network comprising:

a client process executable on a processor in a two-way communication device, the two way communication device including a display screen capable of displaying a barcode image suitable for scanning by a barcode scanner;

a server process executable on a processor communicatively coupled over the network to the client process; ~~and~~

a coupon depository coupled to the server process capable of storing a plurality of coupons, the coupons including an encoding of a barcode image, the server process including an operation of sending a particular coupon to the client process, the client process including an operation for decoding the respective barcode image encoding corresponding to the particular coupon and displaying the respective barcode image on the display screen; and

the server process including an operation responsive to a global positioning signal locating a user position, the operation for determining whether the user position is in a vicinity near a retailer honoring a first coupon in the coupon depository and, if so, sending the first coupon to the user.

2. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 1 further comprising:

the client process including an operation for initiating a communication with the server process and requesting a first coupon for a selected item; and

the server process including an operation for receiving the coupon request, determining whether the first a coupon is available, and, if so, transmitting the first coupon to the client process.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 1 further comprising:

the client process including an operation for initiating a communication with the server process and requesting coupons for a generic class of items; and

the server process including an operation for receiving the coupon request, determining coupons that are available for items in the generic class, and transmitting resultant requested coupons to the client process.

4. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 1 further comprising:

the server process including an operation for profiling users to determine collections of items of interest to associated classes of users according to user profiles; and

the server process including an operation for sending one of the collections of items to one of the users in the associated class.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 1 wherein:

the barcode includes tracking information for tracking usage of the particular coupon.

7. (Original) A communication application according to Claim 1 wherein:
the two-way communication device is selected from among a group consisting of cellular
telephones, pagers, and palm-held computers.

8. (Original) An executable program code loadable from a storage media or
downloadable from a communication source according to Claim 1.

9. (Original) An article of manufacture encoding the executable program
code according to Claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) A communication application executable on a
network communicatively coupled to a server process, the communication application
comprising:

a client process executable on a processor in a two-way communication device,
the two-way communication device including a display screen capable of displaying a barcode
image suitable for scanning by a barcode scanner, the client process including:

an interactive input process capable of receiving input signals for the two-way
communication device;

a communication initiating process responsive to the input signals for sending
application initiation signals to the server process via the network;

a communication receiving process responsive to communication signals from the
server process for receiving coupon information from the server process, the coupon information
including an encoded barcode image; ~~and~~

a display process responsive to the receipt of the coupon information for decoding
the encoded barcode image and displaying the barcode image; and

wherein the server process is responsive to a global positioning signal locating a user position by determining whether the user position is in a vicinity near a retailer honoring a first coupon in the coupon depository and, if so, sending the first coupon to the user.

11. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 10 further comprising:

a request process for requesting coupons for a generic class of items; wherein the communication receiving process receives coupon information of one or more coupons for items in the generic class.

12. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 10 further comprising:

a request process for requesting coupons for a generic class of items; wherein the communication receiving process receives coupon information of one or more coupons for items in the generic class; and the application further comprises

an interactive access process for displaying coupons, scrolling through coupons, and selecting coupons under direction of user signals.

13. (Original) A communication application according to Claim 10 wherein: the two-way communication device is selected from among a group consisting of cellular telephones, pagers, and palm-held computers.

14. (Original) An executable program code loadable from a storage media or downloadable from a communication source according to Claim 10.

15. (Original) An article of manufacture encoding the executable program code according to Claim 14.

16. (Currently Amended) A communication application executable on a network comprising:

an electronic coupon clearinghouse coupled to the network and containing a plurality of electronic coupons, the electronic coupons including respective encoded barcode images;

a coupon database coupled to the electronic coupon clearinghouse;

a server coupled to the network, the server capable of accessing the electronic coupon clearinghouse and receiving selected electronic coupons from the electronic coupon clearinghouse;

a two-way communication device capable of communicating on the network and receiving electronic coupons from the server via the network, the two-way communication device capable of decoding the encoded barcode images and displaying the barcode images on a screen display; and

wherein the server is responsive to a global positioning signal locating a user position by determining whether the user position is in a vicinity near a retailer honoring a particular coupon in the coupon depository and, if so, sending the particular coupon to the user.

17. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 16 further comprising:

a profile engine coupled to the network and accessible by the server that generates user profiles and creates a collection of coupons according to the user profiles.

18. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 16 wherein:

the two-way communication device initiates communication with the server and requests a particular coupon for a specific item; and

the server determines whether the particular coupon for the specific item is available in the coupon database and, if so, sends the particular coupon to the two-way communication device.

19. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 16 wherein:

the two-way communication device initiates communication with the server and requests coupons for a class of items: and

the server searches the coupon database for coupons included within the class of items and sends any results to the two-way communication device.

20. (Previously Presented) A communication application according to Claim 16 further comprising:

a profile engine coupled to the network and accessible by the server that generates user profiles and creates a collection of coupons according to the user profiles, wherein

the server periodically searches the coupon database for coupons included within the collection of coupons for a particular user profile and sends any resultant coupons in the collection to the two-way communication device.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) A communication application according to Claim 16 wherein:
the two-way communication device is selected from among a group consisting of cellular telephones, pagers, and palm-held computers.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a user of a two-way communication device with an electronic coupon, the system comprising:

a network;

a two-way communication device connected to and forming at least part of the network, the two-way communication device including a display;

a server connected to and forming at least part of the network;

a coupon depository connected to the server, the coupon depository storing a plurality of coupons, at least some of the coupons including an associated barcode image; wherein

the server is effective to forward select coupons and associated barcode images to the two-way communication device in response to a global positioning signal locating a user position by determining that the user is in a vicinity near a retailer honoring the select coupon from the coupon depository; and

the two-way communication device is effective to receive the select coupons and associated barcode images and display the barcode images on the display.

24. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein: the two-way communication device is effective to forward a request to the server for a particular coupon; and

the server is effective to search the coupon depository and forward the particular coupon to the two-way communication device when the particular coupon is stored in the coupon depository.

25. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the server is effective to forward a particular coupon to the two-way communication device based on a user profile.

26. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein: the two-way communication device further generates a global positioning signal;

the server is effective to read the global positioning signal and to forward a particular coupon to the two-way communication device based on the global positioning signal.

27. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the two-way communication device is one of a cell phone, a pager, and a palm-held computer.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user of a two-way communication device in a network with an electronic coupon, the network including a server and a coupon depository connected thereto, the coupon depository storing a plurality of coupons, at least some of the coupons including an associated barcode image, the two-way communication device including a display, the method comprising:

forwarding select coupons and associated barcode images to the two-way communication device from the server in response to a global positioning signal locating a user position by determining that the user position is in a vicinity near a retailer honoring a particular coupon in a coupon depository;

receiving the select coupons and associated barcode images at the two-way communication device; and

displaying the barcode images on the display.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 28, further comprising:

sending a request to the server from the two-way communication device for a particular coupon;

searching the coupon depository; and

forwarding the particular coupon to the two-way communication device when the particular coupon is stored in the coupon depository.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 28, further comprising forwarding a particular coupon to the two-way communication device based on a user profile.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 28, further comprising:

generating a global positioning signal at the two-way communication device; reading the global positioning signal at the server; and

forwarding a particular coupon to the two-way communication device based on the global positioning signal.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 28, wherein the two-way communication device is one of a cell phone, a pager, and a palm-held computer.